T/SOR/13/9/8/7

CAMBUSLANG & RUTHERGLEN CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE POLL TAX

Internal Newsletter
October 1990

POLL TAX ARREARS DEDUCTIONS FROM INCOME SUPPORT HAVE STARTED

MASS APPEALS MUST BE LODGED!

On Thursday 20th October Rutherglen D.S.S. workers began processing 1989/90 Poll Tax Arrears' deductions from Income Support of 1,700 local unemployed claimants.

Monies being deducted are as follows:
£1.85 per week from single claimants
£2.93 per week from couples.

Deductions from Income Support of the sick, single parents and pensioners will follow.

Our Campaign's position is that these outrageous deductions from the poverty benefit of the poorest sections of our community must be resisted!

Accordingly we are encouraging aggrieved claimants to lodge formal appeals against the deductions and are energetically lobbying Rutherglen D.S.S. workers involved in Poll Tax deductions to 'go slow' AND to ban all overtime caused by deductions work.

While each claimant has 3 months to lodge an appeal the quicker the claim is made the better.

With this in mind we are distributing Appeal leaflets and pro-forma letters of appeal to claimants at Rutherglen D.S.S. Office, at the Cambuslang and Rutherglen 'Broos' AND via street stalls and Tenant Association Public Meetings etc.

Appeals against deductions on a mass scale will not only clog up the D.S.S. bureaucracy and slow the deduction process down but will also create the conditions for the abolition of the scandalous 20% minimum contribution from the poor and of course for the abolition of the Poll Tax itself.

For each formal appeal must be dealt with by a full Tribunal which costs an average of £300! AND There's not much sense in spending £300 to collect £100 and £200 per year from single and couple claimants respectively.

In relation to the D.S.S. workers involved

It's our position that while we appreciate the economic pressure these low-paid workers are under they shouldn't be benefiting from overtime related to work causing severe hardship and misery to thousands of claimants and their families.

The Govan Campaign has been very successful in this direction. Only 2 or 3 deductions are being processed there per week.

WE'VE GOT TO AT LEAST MATCH THAT EFFORT!

The pro-forma letters of Appeal referred to can be obtained from the campaign by phoning-
641-8935/9178/2031/6927

PHONE US TO-DAY
FOR WE NEED YOUR HELP
IN THIS ESSENTIAL WORK!

Cambuslang and Rutherglen Campaign
Against the Poll Tax

FUND RAISING DISCO DANCE

FRIDAY
26th October

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

'8 Till Late!'

Tickets: £1.50

Phone: 641-9178/8935/2031/6927

OR PAY AT DOOR!

ATTEMPTS TO CARRY OUT 'POINDINGS'

PRE-WARRANT SALES IN OUR AREA

COULD START ANYTIME

WE MUST BE ON FULL ALERT!

The last 2 or 3 weeks have seen another wave of threatening letters being issued in our area by KAY & CO. AND GEORGE WALKER & SON, Sheriff Officers.

In regard to the former the letters are being sent to people with 1989/90 arrears less than £120 - the bulk of recipients are Income Support Claimants or people on low wages or dependant on other benefits/pensions.

Similar to the seven-day 'final' demand letters people in Cambuslang have been receiving since April 23rd the letters threaten 'Poindings' wage arrestment, bank account freezing if the recipient fails to cough up monies owed or fails to come to an arrangement to pay by the specified deadline.

There are 4 reasons why people shouldn't panic at these particular letters:

1) The people who received them as long ago as April 23rd and failed to respond have received no further communication and no action has been taken against them.

2) It's hardly likely that people with arrears less than £120 are going to be 'dealt with' first when others owing £336.60 haven't been pursued.

3) It's almost impossible to arrest wages and freeze bank accounts unless the debtor supplies the Sheriff Officer with the name and address of his/her Employer/Bank.

4) People on Income Support have to be dealt with exclusively by deductions from Income Support i.e. No Income Support Claimant is to be subject to 'Poindings'.

The GEORGE WALKER & SONS, Sheriff Officers, have been more sinister:
They have been received by people who had already received a 4-day demand letter from the Company a number of weeks/months ago.

This second letter threatens only 'Poindings' unless an arrangement is made 'immediately'

No date on which the 'Poinding' is to be attempted is mentioned.

Time has shown that these letters were just another effort to intimidate, for despite the fact that they were received weeks ago by some, no 'Poinding' has been attempted.

The key thing for our Campaign is that despite the fact that we know Sheriff Officers don't have the resources to attempt 'Poindings' on a mass scale - periodic efforts will be made to carry out isolated 'Poindings'.

ACCORDINGLY WE MUST BE ON FULL ALERT.

Please contact us immediately if anyone in your area receives a second letter from the Sheriff Officers.

WE MIGHT HAVE TO MOBILISE MASS ANTI-SHERIFF PICKETS OVER A VERY SHORT PERIOD.

BE ON YOUR GUARD! KEEP US INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

AND ABOVE ALL COME TO THE CAMPAIGNS AGGREGATE WEEKLY MEETINGS.

STARTING ON SUNDAY 14TH OCTOBER THESE WILL TAKE PLACE EVERY SUNDAY AT 12 NOON IN CAMBUSLANG MINERS' WELFARE, MILL ROAD, HALFWAY.

News Flash!

STOP PRESS: 9/10/90
Cllr, Jean McFadden, Chairperson of the Convention of Local Authorities is predicting an average increase of £100 in the Poll Tax from 1st April 1991 unless the Government substantially increases Support Grant.

THE POLL TAX WILL INCREASE - MORE WILL JOIN THE NON-PAYMENT CAMPAIGN - IF WE MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE OUR SUPPORT THE POLL TAX DAYS ARE NUMBERED!

HELP US POLE-AXE THE POLL TAX!

BUILD MASS NON-PAYMENT